



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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St. Louis, Missouri (March 1, 2011) – The St. Louis Police Officers Association announced today that former Missouri State Representative Jeff Roorda, will join the SLPOA in the newly created position of Business Manager on March 14, 2011.

Rep. Roorda served in the Missouri House from 2005 through 2011 representing the 102<sup>nd</sup> District in Jefferson County. Roorda rose to a leadership position in the legislature, serving as the House Minority Whip from 2009-2011. Roorda departed the legislature in January of 2011, briefly joining Governor Nixon's administration as a Special Assistant to the Director of Public Safety prior to accepting the position with the SLPOA. Roorda worked in law enforcement for 17 years prior to his election to the Missouri House. He began his law enforcement career as a civilian employee with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department in 1986, working as a police dispatcher and 911 operator. Roorda is a 20-year member of the Fraternal Order of Police, the parent organization of the SLPOA. He lives in Barnhart with his wife Nancy and their three daughters.

SLPOA Vice-President and Legislative Director, Joe Steiger, touted Roorda's addition as a bold step for the association. "Jeff understands the plight of cops and other public employees. He's shown the ability to fight for us and the willingness to bring parties together to avoid disputes between management and public employee unions. In the wake of the 2007 Supreme Court decision granting collective bargaining rights to police officers, it makes sense for our organization to have someone with Jeff's abilities to represent us. Hiring Representative Roorda as our first business manager is a homerun for the 1000-plus members of the SLPOA," Steiger said.

Roorda was equally excited by the new opportunity. "I'm honored for the chance to serve the men and women of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. For too long, they've been treated like second-class citizens. The Supreme Court said that we are entitled to the same rights that every other citizen of this state enjoys and I'll not rest until our members are treated with the fairness and equity that the law requires. These men and women place their lives on the line everyday for the people of St. Louis and they deserve fair treatment. The citizens of St. Louis appreciate the job they do and the City's elected officials should do the same. I've got a good relationship with the City's delegation in the Missouri Legislature and a good relationship with most of the elected officeholders at City Hall. I plan to reach out to the city officeholders on behalf of the rank-and-file of the police department in the hopes of ending the long-standing attempts to undermine city police officers' rights through legislative maneuvering in order to move toward a scenario where the association and city government can have meaningful, good-faith, face-to-face interactions to resolve their differences," Roorda said. "The sniping at the heroes that serve the citizens of St. Louis has to stop. It doesn't benefit anybody."